# LITERARY NEWS and CRITICISM

## The Later Years in the Life of Cardinal Newman.

THE LIFE OF JOHN HENRY, CARDINAL NEWMAN. Based on His Private Journals and Correspondence. By Wilfrid Ward. With 15 Portraits and other Illustrations. In two volumes. 8vo, pp. 634 and 627. Longmans, Green & Co.

The Newman of the late thirties at Oxford, whose legend is to this day potent throughout the English speaking world, stands forth so clearly in the writings of contemporaries like Dean Church and R. H. Hutton, in the "Letters and Correspondence," edited by Miss Anne Mozley, and most directly of all in the classic self-revealings made by Newman in the Apologia pro Vita Sua, that no explanation is needed for the Cardinal's expressed desire that the present biographer should not add to the authoritative record already given. Since it was within the Catholic Church that the greater part of his working life was spent, it is with those forty-odd years of Newman's career as Oratorian that Mr Ward's narrative has chiefly to do.

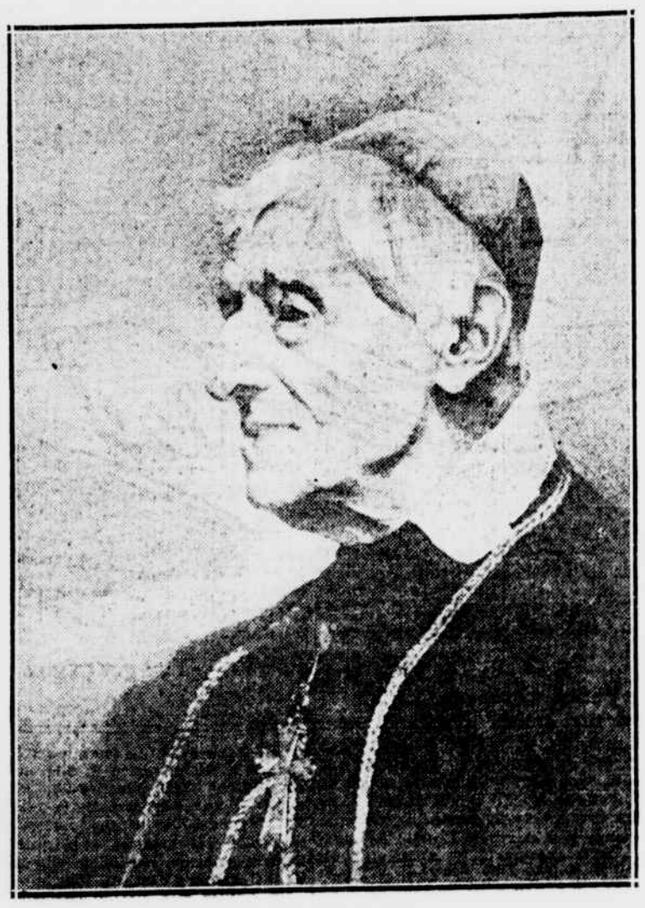
If to the end of his days the convert turned wistfully to the associations of nigh thirty years at Oxford, there was never the quiver of a misgiving as to the course he had taken in seeking admission to the "one true fold of the Redeemer"; nor were consolations wanting when once within the pale. Not a few Anglican comrades joined him in the new life, and, as in answer to prayer, the ranks were extended from time to time. Although in the eyes of critics it seemed plain proselytism, Newman's zeal for conversions was at least charged with an intensity that ennobled it. Then there was the absorbing occupation of learning the ways of the new country and the question to be met as to where most usefully Newman and the men of his circle could be put to work. Catholic centres in England were visited under the cordial oversight of Cardinal Wiseman, and this was followed by a year's sojourn in Rome, where the company served the novitiate as Oratorians. In January of 1848 the English Oratory was, by brief of Pope Pius IX, established in Birmingham. Newman was superior of the community, which included Ambrose St. John, Dalgairns, Penny, Stanton and Coffin. A month later Frederick W. Faber joined them, with some Wilfridian protégés from Cheadle.

St. Philip Neri, under whose patronage the Birmingham Oratory was begun, was venerated in Newman's eyes for an unworldly scorn of scorn. "Neglect," he said in an early sermon, "was the badge which St. Philip desired for himself and for his own." The prayer for neglect was to be answered in most literal fashion in Newman's case, and Mr. Ward assures us the answer was hard to bear. Coming from the chief home of English intellectual life, aware of the many Anglicans conceivably open to such method of approach as had brought him to consider the claims of the Catholic Church, the Oratorian's heart was set on having those claims clothed with the best philosophical sanctions. Due to what he deemed a certain inelasticity of mind in influential quarters, young Catholic life in England was being suffered to rest on foundations which, in W. G. Ward's phrase, were "argumentatively rotten." Openings for the doing of the cherished work offered encouragingly, but they proved dismal in the event. The story for many years was to be of tasks undertaken only to be thwarted, a story which, as Mr. Wilfrid Ward is now permitted to relate it to a generation from which no Victorian secrets are hid, meets fully the Aristotelian specifications for the dramatic.

Invited by the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr. Cullen, to become rector of the proposed Catholic university in Dublin, Newman might well feel that an active battlefield was in sight and a welcome challenge to his powers. Into the undertaking he put seven years of his strength, having to acknowledge failure in the end, and discovering by slow degrees that it was his figurative significance, an Oxford scholar founding a university in opposition to the "mixed" educational idea of Queen's College, that had given him temporary worth in the sight of the Irish episcopate. As for the Catholic University, there was no objection to its being pushed forward provided it was kept unspotted from modern thought. During the rectorship Newman delivered the lectures on university ideals, which had had deep influence since, and in this way, as the biographer believes, the Dublin experience was fuller in fruitage than could be seen at the time. As an aid to the rector in dealing with recalcitrant ecclesiastics, it had been proposed to make him a bishop, a piece of news which was sent him by Cardinal Wiseman fresh from audience with the Pope. In a public gathering Bishop Ullathorne alluded to the prospective honor. Friends sent gifts in anticipation—a morse for a cope, a cross and chain of Maltese filagree work—and the Duke of Norfolk sent a massive gold chain. These gifts Newman could exhibit to visiting friends in years much later, but he was not made bishop.

The budding morrow in midnight was betokened for Newman in the reception accorded by the nation at large to his Apologia in 1864. Thanks to the headlong and random remarks of Charles Kingsley, Newman, finding his honesty assailed, laid aside the verdict he had previously passed upon himself, a "grey grasshopper, an evaporating mist of the morning," and told the world his plain story of the processes by which at Oxford he had been led to enter the Catholic Church. Not only among Protestants did his frank and winning self-disclosure meet warm response; there was joy in his own communion over so felicitous and constraining an account of the position of the Catholic in England. Henceforth Dr. Newman was to live under kindlier skies. Although in respect to the Mission he wished to found in Oxford he was for a second time to be frustrated, the remembrance of the "long blue envelope" of official recall was not to blight his declining days. Pio Nono was succeeded by Leo XIII, and early in the new reign the chivalrous Oratorian was elevated to the cardinalate. What gave his delight a deeper zest was the reflection that being made a prince of the Church must dispose forever of doubts indulged by the uncharitable as to his loyalty to St. Peter.

Not regarding himself commissioned to get up a court portrait, the biographer lets us see Newman as he was—punctilious, tiresomely fussy at times, with a shy pride that often got him into hot water, and with a satirical humor on occasion. When challenged to public debate by an anti-Popery speaker he declared himself quite ready for the encounter if the gentleman would open the meeting by making a speech, and he himself might respond with a tune on the violin. The public would then be able to judge which was the better man. Such secrets as were wrested from Newman about his style seem to centre in the information that he tried to say exactly what he meant, and that he would rewrite until his meaning stood out clearly. Of the churchman's friendships Mr. Ward gives beautiful examples worthy of the author of the Apologia. It is a memorable chronicle that is furnished in the present volumes, not without meaning for the Church in our own day; and if the Cardinal's limitations are made more apparent the impressions long prevalent also are here fortified, that in John Henry Newman the Church to which he belonged was served by one who joined mental courage to perfect obedience, a man in whom holiness was a life and not a phrase.



CARDINAL NEWMAN.
(From a portrait in "The Life of John Henry, Cardinal Newman.")

## PANAMA

### Its Past, Its Present and the the Canal.

PANAMA. The Canal, the Country and the People. By Albert Edwards. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. x, 585. The Macmillan Company.

Parts of this book have appeared in various periodicals, but the bulk of its contents is new. Mr. Edwards deals, of course, at great length with what we are achieving on the Isthmus and with what we have already done—a monument of American efficiency, of expert management of hitherto unapproached magnitude. As a traveller he is an agreeable, observant companion, not least in his delightful opening pages on the sea trip through the West Indies, but his chief interest lies in facts past and present.

The history of Panama is told at great length from its discovery to the day of the revolution that established the small republic. The tale carries us afield here and there, into Peru, for instance, whose conquest by the Spaniards was planned on the Isthmus. The period of prosperity of the city on the Pacific, and the consequent visits of privateers and buccaneers, of Drake and Morgan, are sufficiently familiar, but Mr. Edwards tells the story also of a hitherto practically unknown episode, which he calls the "Presbyterian Invasion."

In the days of William III a Scotch missionary, William Paterson, saw, with that practical imagination for which his race is famed, an avenue to wealth untold via the Isthmus. The English East India Company had a monopoly of the East Indian trade, of which individual interlopers constantly sought and occasionally took an illegal share. Paterson's was a greater ambition. He actually succeeded in founding the "Company of Scotland trading in Africa and the Indies" via Panama. The new venture even secured a charter and began operations, notwithstanding the opposition of the powerful East India Company. An expedition was sent out to found a settlement on the Isthmus, to be named New Edinburgh, but internal dissensions and poor management brought this interesting venture to naught before it had properly been started.

Panama was, however, a trade route. It flourished, not on its own natural wealth, but on that from South America in transit to Europe. When this dwindled with the decline of the Spanish empire in America the city fell into decay. The country itself was almost forgotten. Both played their part in the wars of South American independence, then went to sleep again until the discovery of gold in California gave their vanished prosperity a new lease of life.

The story of the Panama railroad follows, then that of the French canal company, with its riots of plunder and robbery. Of the $250,000,000 subscribed first and last for its stock, less than half "ever got anywhere near Panama and actual work on the canal." Colombia meanwhile had had fifty-three revolutions in fifty-seven years. The fifty-fourth, that of 1903, brought in its wake the present condition of affairs.

The author gives an entertaining account of his own experiences in the jungle with a fellow American who had bought a gold claim and found that it had been jumped. He also discusses the attitude of shortsighted enmity of the Panamanians toward the "gringo," and their way with the money that came to their treasury so easily in 1903. His facts concerning the work done by American engineers and sanitarians are well adapted to give the reader an adequate idea of the magnitude of their task and victory.

## MODERN HOLLAND

### Completion of Blok's History of the Netherlands.

HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NETHERLANDS. By Petrus Johannes Blok, professor of Dutch history in the University of Leyden. In 5 parts. Part V. Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Translated by Oscar A. Bierstadt. With 5 maps. 8vo, pp. vi, 550. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Professor Blok is to be congratulated upon the completion of his magnum opus, to whose writing he devoted twenty years of his life. Some share of the congratulations may well be claimed by his translators, Miss Ruth Putnam and Mr. Bierstadt, who labored more than fourteen years over a task that presented peculiar difficulties. The satisfactory quality of their work was long since recognized, first of all by the author himself, who personally supervised and authorized whatever abridgments were made in his English version.

The nations of the Old World and the New have been busily rewriting their histories during the last fifty years by the light of the scientific historic method. History itself has assumed a new significance, expressed first of all and with increasing frequency in the words "the people" in the titles of the works it inspires. Professor Blok's is "A History of the People of the Netherlands," a history of its social, economic and cultural development, as well as of the part it played in the affairs of war and peace of Europe and the modern world, and, finally, a history of the rulers and leaders that led it on to its position in the family of nations at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The eminent Dutch historian was the right man in the right place at the right moment when he began his task. Dutch history urgently needed rewriting. A wealth of new material, of new documentary evidence and studies of various periods and personages based thereon, had gradually accumulated in monographs, the pages of periodicals and other unrelated forms. The modern investigators had been busy, and to good purpose. A well stored brain and a trained hand were awaited to co-ordinate all this new matter, which implied so much of revision of accepted traditions, opinions and interpretations, and to weave it into an organic whole. Professor Blok undertook the task conscientiously, regardless of national susceptibilities, and with the authority of fulness of knowledge.

The sources of information concerning the beginnings of the people of the Low Countries have remained as scant as they were before the modern historian attempted to lift the veil. Cæsar and Tacitus still are our chief informants, together with some minor Roman writers. Nor do we know much more of the Dark Ages in the Netherlands. The lives of the missionaries to the heathen here are of chief value. Suffice it to say that out of the mingling of Franks, Saxons and Frisians sprang the later Dutch stock. Feudalism had its day of counts and dukes, of the belligerent bishops of Utrecht, of free lords of all degrees, until, toward the end of the Middle Ages, the foundations were laid of the prosperity and strength and political importance of the Low Countries by their union under the rule of the House of Burgundy, from which, by inheritance, they passed into the hands of Charles V. It is worth noting that the influence of politics upon the social and economic evolution of a people was more direct and marked in the Netherlands during the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries than almost anywhere else in history.

The interest of the world at large in the history of the Netherlands centres in the war with Spain and the glorious career of the republic during the seventeenth century. The struggle for religious and political freedom made the country, in the late Professor Thorold Rogers's words, the "Holy Land of the modern world." The republic took the lead, under William III, in the struggle for the preservation of the balance of power in Europe against the vaulting ambition of Louis XIV. It exhausted its strength and wealth, it lost its international authority in the protracted effort, which was a matter of national life or death. England, not Holland, profited in the end by the policies of the last of the direct descendants of William the Silent. It is here, perhaps more than at any preceding period, that the political history of the country was of greatest and most direct influence upon the history, the further progress of its people.

Professor Blok's treatment of this period is all that the foreign reader could require. It is full, circumstantial alike in its political and in its economic, social and cultural aspects. To be sure, the modern scientific method has led the author to dim somewhat the lustre of the fame of William the Silent. The headlong enthusiasm of a Motley is not his. Oldenbarneveld is the hero of his choosing, the bold builder of the proud republic on the uncertain foundations left by the first Orange. In accordance with the modern scientific method, Professor Blok has also rubbed some of the tarnish from the reputations of Philip and Alva. He rehabilitates rather elaborately what he can of their ill repute. Alva's methods of repression, he explains, were the usual ones of his period, and the number of his victims has been greatly exaggerated in the course of the centuries. No doubt he is right. Still, one would like to ask him what led the German princes to protest against Alva's persecutions if they were only the usual, familiar methods of his period and theirs?

The fifth and last volume of the work, now before us, opens with the death of William III and the re-establishment of a state of affairs in the Netherlands that closely resembled that of his own childhood. His distant cousin and heir, John William Friso, died shortly after him, leaving the Stadtholdership once more in abeyance during the long minority of his posthumous son. But a De Witt was lacking.

The history of eighteenth century Holland is a saddening record of dwindling prestige abroad, of corruption and incompetence at home. The great powers only gradually discovered the military, naval and financial weakness of the nation, which was as if paralyzed by the after-effects of its superhuman efforts of the Golden Age. Public office became a "private snap," and even a family snap, of the patricians. Commerce and industry declined. England improving every opportunity to grasp the sea borne trade of her old rival. Only finance flourished, thanks to the accumulated wealth of the fathers, but even here the general unrest in Europe, the alarums of wars, brought many disasters. The last two Stadtholders were weak, vacillating men, though it is doubtful if even an able and masterful one could have influenced for the better the course of affairs. The French spirit of modern liberty only led to increased internal strife, to a shortlived Batavian republic, really governed from Paris, to an equally shortlived kingdom under Louis Bonaparte, and then to annexation to the empire. The national spirit of the Hollanders revived with the overthrow of Napoleon.

The history of the Netherlands in the nineteenth century follows in a general way that of all Northern Europe. It is a history of reviving prosperity, still more one of the struggle for the political rights of the common people. The only great figure of all this period is that of Thorbecke, the champion of democracy, the framer of the country's modern constitution, who, valiantly fighting vested interests, was handicapped also by the enmity of William III, a king with a high opinion of his royal prerogatives.

This volume becomes decidedly hard reading once its author reaches the history of our own times in the Netherlands. In how far, if at all, his translator is responsible for the extreme condensation of this chronicle of very complicated party politics it is impossible to say without reference to the Dutch original. Certain it is that one stumbles constantly upon portmanteau sentences packed with far more information than they can conveniently hold and convey. It almost appears as if Professor Blok, writing first of all for his own countrymen, had relied upon their general familiarity with his subject matter, without thought of his less well informed foreign readers. A striking feature of these constant manœuvres between the "ins" and the "outs," between progressives and reactionaries, is the great role that religion continues to play in Dutch politics, in the shape of constantly formed and dissolved alliances between the ultra-orthodox Calvinists and the Roman Catholics. To the old parties, under different names, there has been added since the 80's one of the socialistic workingmen. The "woman movement" began early, about 1870.

Professor Blok faces the future of the Netherlands confidently. The dream of a greater Netherland in South Africa, he holds, has been dissipated by the English conquest of the Boer republics, but he looks hopefully to the Dutch East Indies, where, under a liberal administration, the natives are clamoring for the Hollander's education, and for self-government. One doubts his optimism in this regard. Of the international position of the kingdom at the present day he offers no opinion. It has remained, in a sense, the old historic one between England and France, with the new Germany in a far more disquieting place than that held by the old empire under the Hapsburgs. Certain it is that the people of the Netherlands have greatly progressed since the revival, which in the early 80's of the last century put new energy into their national life, political, cultural and economic.

## RAILROADING

### A Popular Handbook of a Great Industry.

THE MODERN RAILROAD. By Edward Hungerford. With many illustrations from photographs. 8vo, pp. xxi, 476. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

The romance of business pervades this practical work on the American railroad in all the branches of its complicated management. Mr. Hungerford writes for the layman, interpreting to him the multitude of details of this industry, from the president's office to the work of the track walker and the wrecking crew. He takes his reader on visits to the locomotive works and the station in course of construction; he descends with him below the surface to the caisson where the "sand hog" works under three atmospheres, and thence takes him to the end of a girder on a bridge in course of construction, hundreds of feet above swiftly flowing water or gaping chasm. He tells the story of the survey, the charter, financing, grading and construction, and of reconstruction, regrading and the elimination of grades and curves and tunnels.

Engineering, operating, maintenance, freight, the making of traffic, express and mail service, commuting, the care and repair of rolling stock, the railroads' fleets, the luxury of modern railroad travel, all this comes within the scope of this book, which eschews only the intricacies of railroad finance and politics, railroad quarrels and wars, the organizations of railroad employes, government commissions and a few other topics that are not altogether comprised in its scope.

There is also a short history of the beginnings and development of American railroading, of some of the builders of our great systems and of the way in which they were completed, often not without apparently insuperable difficulties, not necessarily physical. The railroad president and his staff of vice-presidents have a chapter to themselves, so have the legal and financial departments, the general manager, the superintendent and that well known personage, the G. P. A. The author has a happy knack of illustrating general rules and conditions with concrete instances, whether it be the staggering salary asked and earned by the man who is invited to set on its feet a railroad that is facing insolvency, or the expectation of blame for delay instead of praise for expediency of the foreman of a wrecking crew. To employ an overworked term, and employ it justly, Mr. Hungerford never allows his readers to forget the human interest behind it all.

"THE LADY IN ERMINE."
(From the portrait by El Greco of his daughter.)

## GAME PRESERVATION

### Two Thousand Miles in the Rocky Mountain Region.

SADDLE AND CAMP IN THE ROCKIES. An Expert's Picture of Game Conditions in the Heart of Our Hunting Country. By Dillon Wallace. Illustrated with photographs. 8vo, pp. xvi, 302. Outing Publishing Company.

Mr. Wallace's trip of observation began at Holbrook, Ariz., midway between the forests and the Apache country to the south, and the desert, with the Navajo, Hopi and Paiute Indian reservations, to the southward. He started early in the summer, and reached his destination among the snows of a Montana winter. His was no hunting trip; on the contrary, it was undertaken to investigate conditions on the big game ranges, with the purpose of pointing out what is still left undone for the protection of our big game as a national resource. He is especially severe on Wyoming's neglect of the elk in winter.

His narrative is not overloaded with descriptions of scenery. A few graphic words here and there, a note on sunrise or sunset suffice him. He is far more interested in the men he encountered on the way, whites and Indians, and from time to time retails with evident gusto reminiscences of the earlier days of the ready revolver, of bad men and fearless sheriffs. His ponies were a source of unending interest to him. He closely observed their individualities, and what he has to say on this subject proves that he did not study them in vain. The management of the Indians on the reservations also received his attention. The Apache, he informs us, has been the victim of much misrepresentation.

The book is alive with this quality of human interest. If Mr. Wallace enjoyed his long trip to the utmost, he knows how to share his enjoyment with his reader. He has, moreover, a good cause at heart, and works for it with practical understanding.

## EL GRECO

### Maurice Barres on the Mystic Master of Toledo.

Paris, May 9.

M. Maurice Barrès, of the French Academy, Nationalist Deputy of Paris, militant patriot, vigilant critic of his political colleagues and, first and last, a disciple of Stendhal, is not only a writer of fiction but a critic of art. He made this fact plain not long ago in a work on El Greco, prepared in collaboration with M. Paul Lafond. It was first published in an edition for the amateur of art. Now it is brought out again in more popular form by the house of Emile Paul. This book, "Greco ou le Secret de Tolede," is a remarkable study of the mystic, yet realistic, painter, who was born in Crete, studied in Venice with Titian, and devoted his life to painting superb religious visions, cardinals, inquisitors, soldiers and great ladies in the ancient capital of Castile. It contains not only a most subtle and delicate analysis of the character of the master, but enchanting descriptions of the majestic rock built city on the banks of the Tagus.

It is in the paintings of El Greco, that